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Harvard Announces Program on Intelligence and Policy Making

Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government announced today a new program of research and training on intelligence assessment and policy. The three-year program, which is sponsored by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, will be formally inaugurated at a kickoff dinner in Washington on Monday, December 14, 1987.

Professor Ernest P. May, Charles Warren Professor of History at Harvard and a distinguished military and diplomatic historian, is the program director. Professor Richard E. Neustadt, Dr. Gregory F. Treverton and Associate Dean Peter Zimmerman are other Harvard faculty participating in the research.

"This is a path breaking venture for both Harvard and the intelligence community," Professor May said. "In the modern world, our very lives depend on effective assessment of foreign intelligence. We hope our research will be illuminating to intelligence analysts and policy makers alike."

Professor Neustadt said, "The overall purpose of this program is to help those who prepared assessments of foreign events and those who make foreign policy decisions better understand one another's needs, interests, cultures, and perspectives. In our country, the gap between them has often been wide with bad effects on foreign policy. Our hope is that our research can make a modest contribution toward narrowing that gap."

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The program has four components including: preparation of a number of case studies examining how intelligence assessments were made, how they were communicated to policy makers and with what results; meetings with current and past officials to discuss possible lessons of these cases; the conduct, twice a year, of a one-week executive training session for senior analysts seeking to make the work of the intelligence community more useful in policy making; and the porgram will bring to the university a senior intelligence analyst, who will participate in the project and who will be one of the school's research associates in national security. (As previously announced, an experimental executive training session was held in March 1987 and was repeated in November.)

The program will be launched at the inaugural meeting of the program's steering group which will advise on the research agenda and serve as a resource for the program. The group includes a number of current and former members of congress, cabinent officers and other government officials with oversight, policy, and intelligence responsibilities.

More of the work associated with the program will involve any classified information. The work is consistent with university policy and the principles of academic freedom. All research products and case studies will be freely available for use at Harvard and elsewhere.

"As with all other research at this university, the ultimate aim is increased public understanding," said Professor Neustadt.

Other national security seminars offered by the Kennedy School include the eight-week program for Senior Officials in National Security, and the two-week program in National and International Security. The School also conducts a short Defense Policy Seminar in Washington twice a year.

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